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Subsidiary of Western Publishing Company, Inc.

1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

April 13, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I think that all of us are once again serious about the 1804 dollar book and we must see the thing through at this time before all of our work is wasted. There is no question but what we have more facts and true conclusions than have ever been assembled before and this will definitely be a worth-while piece of numismatic literature.

Walter and Lynn have done a good job of making an outline of what should be included in the book. It will not be much of a task to put together the various bits of information that we have all collected and, by using their outline, make a workable manuscript out of it.

Did Lynn send you a copy of this outline? If not, I will make a duplication of mine and sent it to you.

Is there any chance that you would be attending the Central States Convention April 28-30? If so, this would give us an opportunity to become acquainted and probably do some constructive work on the book.

'sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

April 18, 1961

Mr. Ken Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

No one sent me a copy of an outline and if you would that might be helpful.

I am sorry that I will not be present at the Central States Convention to meet you.

I still have not forgotten the possibility of us getting together by your coming down here and will suggest a new date in due course.

Most cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

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1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

April 19, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Enclosed herewith is a Thermo-fax copy of Walter and Lynn's outline for the 1804 dollar story. It is rather rough and unfinished but I believe it is a step in the right direction and will serve as a decent guide to putting this story together.

I will be looking forward to a time when we can meet and get some serious numismatizing done.

'sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

encl.

June 7, 1961

Mr. Lynn Glaser
3012 Joshua Road
Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania

Dear Lynn:

I was pleased to know that you enjoyed yourself at the Albany Convention, even though it may have been a financial failure. I, too, was surprised at Dave Bower's reassociation with Ruddy. I am sure that this will be for the betterment of themselves and the hobby.

I hope that I am not the one who has to make a decision about Werner's 1804 and 05 dollars. I drew the same conclusions that you did from reading the article. About the only fault that I have to find with the coins is that the 4 and 5 in the dates do not seem to be done in the proper style of those years. This, however, does not seem to be enough to condemn the coins. Even so, something does not seem to be quite right about these pieces and I feel sure that the last word has not yet been said about them. If the coins are fakes, as you say, they are diabolically ingenious.

Walter has seen the 1805 coin and also feels that something is wrong with it, but confirms the fact that the obverse is not an alteration from a known die. It does not seem possible that two unlisted obverse dies could have been used to produce fakes of this sort. Perhaps after Walter and Eric have a chance to appraise the situation, they can throw some new light on the subject.

Whether or not these coins are real, they should not affect our proposed book. We cover only the 1804 dollars that were struck at the mint at a later date, and we can easily prove that these are not genuine.

I sever,

KEB:jam
cc: Walter Breen
Eric Newman ✓

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

June 12, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Co.
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I have been asked to give an educational talk at the A.N.A. convention, in August, and am going to speak on the 1804 Dollar problem. The new 1804-05 dollars are available to me to examine.

I definitely feel that any book which does not include these coins would be a major disappointment and that it is absolutely essential that they be included. Accordingly, I am going to study the matter further, obtain a full copy of Bolender's report, and see what I can come up with for my talk. I think the book will be much the better for having all the data on the 1804 situation in it.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

CC: Mr. Lynn Glaser
Mr. Walter Breen

June 20, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Co.
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I am going to see the 1804 and 1805 dollar in about two weeks.

I do not believe that there were two new dies discovered from which these coins were produced. There is much more to the mystery than that. I will know a lot more after I see them. Information as to them must be included in our book or else the book is not worth printing. I will have information somehow.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

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1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

August 23, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Under separate cover I am sending you copies of all of the Blue Books and Red Books that I can find. You will still be missing the seventh edition Red Book and the first, second, third, fifth and ninth of the HANDBOOK. Sorry that I do not have duplicate copies of any of these to send to you.

Walter said that he would be willing ^{and} to have the time to begin writing on the 1804 dollar book. This is all right with me and I am sure it would be much better than getting a professional writer. If he does not begin immediately, however, I will try to make other arrangements. I have asked him to get in touch with you for whatever material he needs. For heavens sake, let's not let up for one minute on this project until it is completed.

I very much enjoyed meeting you and your wife at the convention. I hope that we can get together sometime soon. I was particularly pleased with the necktie that you gave me. Everyone in the office thought that it was very sharp.

'sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

August 29, 1961

Mr. Ken Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

Thank you, very much for the Red Books and the Blue Books. These will be available in my library for future research.

I am working on sections of the 1804 dollar book and I am delighted that Walter will undertake the main project.

I will be sending you the sketch shortly for an artist to whip up of the edge machine.

If you would like to give members of your office four-in-hand ties, of the type I gave you, for Christmas or for goodwill generally, I will be more than glad to send you more.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

September 1, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

In accordance with my promise, I enclose herewith schematic sketches for the early edge lettering machine which should be illustrated in the book on the 1804 dollar. These consist of a plan and elevation. I am also enclosing a photocopy of a very early drawing of a similar machine which was published in France. Maybe your artist can make a respectable isometric or something so as to show the machine in a manner which makes its operation clear. Please let your artist do it in rough form and submit it to me for suggestions. You might feel it best to show the different positions of the coin, but your artist will know best how to present it.

I believe that this machine has never been explained in any American publications.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

September 5, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

Please tear up the drawing of the edge lettering device which I sent you and substitute the enclosed. I have revised my thinking.

You will be delighted to know that I wrote one chapter of the book over the weekend. I will send it to you shortly.

Dick Johnson has asked to publish my full talk in Atlanta. I only gave him permission to publish the portion on the Zerbe coins because I felt the publication of the balance would possibly hurt the book. However, it is entirely possible that it might help the book as it mentions the fact that the book will be published. Will you please give me a quick answer on what you recommend.

Cordially yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

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1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

September 7, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Your drawing of the edge lettering machine is very good and I believe that we can use it with only minor changes. I would like to include a photograph of the page showing this machine in your French book. Would it be possible to get a photograph that is considerably better than the reproduction copy that you sent to me?

I have just heard that a Mr. Cox of Texas has proof restrike specimens of the 1834 and 1835 half dollars. Do you know him? Can you get in touch with him?

Let's keep pushing Breen to make certain that he will get started immediately on the 1804 book.

I appreciate your generous offer to send ties to members of our office staff. Two of the men would like them and would be very pleased to have you send them.

'sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB: jam

Your second drawing arrived. It is much better than the first. Glad to learn that you have started the 1804 book. Let me know how I can help. I feel that publishing your speech in Coin World would help to popularize the subject and help the book!

September 26, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

For the last few weeks I have been working steadily in writing portions of the 1804 dollar book. I wrote portions which I felt the others would not be so apt to write. I want you to be critical of anything which I wrote and amend, elaborate, correct, suggest, etc. as you see fit. After you have read it and commented I have no objection to sending these portions to the other two.

In answer to your letter of September 7, I feel that a photograph of the page in the French book would be difficult to obtain and would not be very effective. I found it in Paris and there is no copy of the book in St. Louis. I wrote to Mr. Cox but have had no answer as yet. I wrote Amon Carter, Jr., and he has not answered. (He previously sent me his 1804).

We are supposed to be four authors for our book. If any of them are not willing or do not have the time to do their part now in writing it I do not believe they should participate in the authorship. Naturally they should get substantial credit for their work in the assembly of any information and in past writing. I certainly hope all will actively participate as this can be one of the finest numismatic projects which a team could produce. Above all, when you next write to the others, please be sure they give complete and proper citations and not do what is so common today, namely, popping out with some data or thought as if it is original when it has been published many times in the past.

-2-

September 26, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company

I want it clearly understood, as I have said before, that the text has to be agreeable to the authors and the publisher. If it is not, then those who wrote various portions shall have the right to withdraw what they wrote and I am submitting the enclosed sections to you with that understanding. This is a hot subject and many do not want the truth. (How well I know).

You and I will have to get together soon with respect to the pictures, the arrangement of the text, etc. Just as soon as we know whether the others have written or are going to write their parts we can plan better.

Let me know whether you know anything new.

I look forward to hearing from you promptly.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

October 2, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I found the French picture of the edge milling device by sheer accident on Plate IX of "The Mint" by John Craig. He copied it for that book and perhaps you could make a picture from that excellent representation if you want to use it.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

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1 2 2 0 M O U N D A V E N U E • R A C I N E , W I S C O N S I N

October 4, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Your manuscript containing several chapters for the 1804 dollar book arrived safely. I have only had time to skim through it but certainly found it very interesting and well written.

I am busy just now trying to rush a catalog on British coins into production but will take time soon to go over your work thoroughly and then pass it on to Walter and Lynn to see what they can contribute to it. I thoroughly agree with your suggestion that only those who will actually contribute to writing the book should be listed as authors.

I feel we should use a picture of the edge milling device if possible. I do not have the book by John Craig. If you could send it to me, I will photograph Plate IX and return it to you.

'sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

October 11, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I just received a letter from Dick Johnson indicating that Kosoff is going to write something on the 1804 dollars. Perhaps it is only for the COIN WORLD but, in any event, full speed ahead is necessary on our project.

I find that my wife will be busy working on one of her hobbies the entire weekend of October 20, 21 and 22. It is an ideal time, therefore, for you to come to visit me. You can sleep at our house.

If you want to come the morning of the 21st or the night of the 20th that would be fine. Let me know promptly if you can make it.

I cannot work with you during the day on Friday but can devote all of Saturday and Sunday to the project.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

EPW/atb

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1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

October 12, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I had planned to attend the MANA Convention on the weekend of the 21st, but I would much rather visit with you and I feel it is of utmost importance that we complete the 1804 book as quickly as possible.

I will arrive Friday, October 20 at 4:23 P.M. on American Flight No. 539. I believe the above address is your home, so I should not have any trouble finding your place. We can spend Saturday and Sunday together and I will return on the plane that leaves 9:40 Monday morning. I hope that this arrangement will be satisfactory with you. These were the closest flights that I could get to coincide with your proposed schedule.

No need to bring up anything concerning the project at this time. I will bring all of my notes, photographs, etc., with me and be looking forward to a most interesting weekend.

Sincerely,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

October 16, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

This is going to be a wild weekend we are going to have together.

You may be interested to know that I now have Amon Carter's 1801, 1802 and 1803 proof dollars on loan.

Please bring your April 1902 A.J.N.

I suggest that you bring as much as you can carry of your notes and pictures as I am going to try a lot of new theories out on you.

I have written another chapter or two and rewritten several sections. Please bring the copies I sent you so that I can replace any which have been revised or completely changed.

Whether you bring a camera to take pictures of the 1801, 1802 and 1803 dollars is up to you. I will try to take pictures of them before you come.

If there are any particular coins in my collection which you might wish to see, let me know, as I would have to get them from the vault.

It is probable that I will not be able to pick you up at the airport because I will be at work but I suggest that you call me up, MAin 1-7300, when you arrive and I can pick you up where the airport bus stops at the Chase Hotel if you come in on time. If you come in late call my house, PArkview 7-0850. If you want to take a taxi directly to my house that may be the most practical. Rest your mind for a vigorous weekend.

Cordially,

EPN/atb

Memo From —

KEN BRESSETT

Dear Eric,

You may need this catalog to help complete the story.

Please return it to me when you are finished with it.

I can make the trip to your place any time that you think it necessary to get the book in shape. Perhaps we could both go to Berkeley and see Walter for a day if you think that would do any good.

Returned
10/20/61
EPN

sewer,
Ken

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1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

October 25, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I want to thank you and Evelyn for the superb weekend that I had at your home. I enjoyed every minute of my visit, even though we certainly did put in a few long hours. My trip home was very uneventful and pleasant-- I slept most of the way.

I have started to take care of all of the notes that I made and have a few things to report to you already: Breen's article about the 1838 over 59 Gobrecht dollar was first published in the NUMISMATIST of May, 1957. *be sure to see this!*

Here is my list of helpers to be integrated with your list: Q. David Bowers, Vernon L. Brown, B. Max Mehl, J. Hewitt Judd, Dan Brown, Mrs. June Pond, William Clark, Abe Kosoff, Malcolm O. E. Chell-Frost, Lee Hewitt and Ruth Green. The rest of the names are only duplicates of the ones that you have.

a copy of Here is the description from the William J. Jenks's catalog--Woodward, June 25-26, 1883: Lot No. 115 - "1804 Fine silver plated electrotype copy from a genuine and a perfect dollar; very desirable for comparison. See plate." The plate is the one that I had with me. It shows flaking at the top edge above LI of LIBERTY. A careful examination of this plate shows that it is positively the Mint's plain edge specimen. Even the shooting Thaler undertype shows through. I have also found a few other references of silver plated electrotypes being offered for sale in the early 1880's. No doubt they were all like this one.

The correspondence between Mason and the chief coiner of the mint in Volume VI, No. 1, January, 1872, is of the utmost importance. I feel it should be quoted in its entirety. A. Loudon Snowden was chief coiner of the Mint from 1866 to 1876. He speaks of discovering the hoard of coinage dies and punches shortly after he became chief coiner in 1866 and states that Franklin Peale had carefully put these away. All of this is extremely important in light of the fact that the unused 1801, 02 and 03 dollar dies must have been in this hoard and must have been used sometime between 1866 and 1869 regardless of what Snowden says to the contrary.

Many thanks for the photostatic copies from Mason's magazine that have just arrived.

I have checked thoroughly and find that we do not have Mehl's Roe sale of 1945.

Many thanks again for your cordial hospitalities and for a most pleasant weekend.

'sever,



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

*I find that the slanting serif I was first used on the
1807 \$5.00 gold, type II. Is this what you discovered
also?*

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1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

October 31, 1961

Dear Eric:

I am enclosing a set of prints from the film that we shot at your house. I think that they all came out fairly well and I am sure they will help to liven up the book. It was too bad that the edge lettering did not show better. This is not too important, however, since we cannot show the entire edge. I suggest we do not attempt to use any photos of edge lettering. I am also enclosing a specimen of the wooden "nickel" that I once issued, as an addition to your collection.

I have written to the Stefanellis requesting prints and enlargements of the 1804 negatives that they shot for you. They claim it will be several weeks before their understaffed department can get to this. I would rather wait than do an inferior job of copying your prints.

The only other photo that we now need is that of the Parmelee specimen in the City Museum, Omaha. I am going to write to them immediately and see if we cannot have them photograph their piece. If this does not work, we will try Dr. Judd again or maybe the Bebee's.

Hope you are making good progress with your part of the book. I have written to Walter and Lynn explaining what we are doing. I have had no comment from them yet. Will keep in touch with you as things develop.

'sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

encl.

November 6, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I think the pictures are really wonderful and I would like to obtain another set for Amon Carter. Would you be nice enough to have a new set printed, perhaps producing better coloration where possible. I will keep the best ones and send the others to him.

I am sure that a letter from me to Dr. Judd will help you with the Omaha Public Library photo and as long as they are doing that they could photo another coin for me.

I have ordered photocopies of the original records with respect to the 1804 and 1805 production of coins and these ought to be excellent additions.

Walter Thompson is now my pal and has sent me a sensational new discovery involving the fact that the 1804 die was sealed up with other dies and held by the mint from 1860 through 1867. He wants to disclose it first but it is a real shocker. It fits in with our theories perfectly.

I have written many more sections of the book.

In studying the relative position of the obverse and reverse of type 3 coins, I note the way you use the arrows. Your arrows mean that the top of the coin is where the arrowhead is and you rotate them on their vertical axis to produce the position of the second arrow. I was rotating them on their horizontal axis which produces a different effect. Both must be abandoned so that the letter they are opposite are stated.

-2-

Mr. Kenneth Bressett

November 6, 1961

I have never felt so sure of our thesis as I do now and I have found some wonderful additional matters such as your friend, Haseltine, in listing the varieties of the 1804 dollar in 1881 only mentions the second reverse and omits the first reverse.

You have a great deal of material about the Rosenthal coin in the way of certifications and what-have-you by Barber, Bobbyshell, and McClure. I would like to get copies of those and I presume Vernon Brown has them - unless you have copies of them. Would you write Vernon for them - if you do not have them - otherwise send them to me.

Let's keep pouring it on until we get this book out of the way.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

P.S. I am returning some things you left by accident.

EPN

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November 8, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I agree. The photographs were excellent. I will have a duplicate set made and sent to you as soon as possible for Amon Carter.

Your letter to Dr. Judd should help get results on the 1804 photo that we need. I wrote to the Public Library last week--no word from them yet.

Glad that you ordered copies of the 1804-5 coinage production records. Anything of this nature that we can reproduce in the book will help to pep it up.

Walter Thompson's discovery about the 1804 die is certainly sensational if he had documentary evidence of this. It proves my theory precisely. Do you think it would be worthwhile to try and pay Thompson for the exclusive right to publish this information first in our book. It sounds like a good idea to me if he has documentary evidence and if he would be agreeable to sell at a reasonable price. I wouldn't mind giving him the money but I do not want him listed as any more than a contributor.

The information about the Rosenthal specimen came through Vernon Brown from Farran Zerbe's material. I am sure Vernon will send you copies of whatever he has if you ask him for them.

Thanks for returning the notes that I had in the Fairbanks auction catalog. I have now received a duplicate copy of this catalog from Stack's so you may keep the one that I left with you.

I will check later to see if I have a copy of the McCoy catalog. I doubt this, however, since I do not recall having seen a listing of the Bett's fabrications. I would be extremely interested in having such a list. By the way, I have photographs of the entire ANS collection of Bett's fabrications plus a few odd pieces that they do not have.

We should find out when the curved top 1 was first used. I will get to work on this today.

'sever,



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

November 9, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

A few quick questions:

In my write up I used Type I, Type II and Type III instead of Class I, Class II, and Class III. This was by inadvertence but I like it better. How does this appeal to you?

Do you have any pictures of the restrike half dollars of 1833, 1834 and 1835. Cox only has the 1833 and I can take a picture of it if you wish as it is in my possession now.

I am sending you a photocopy of a new section which satisfies me and, believe me, I cut up a few people.

I am waiting for your section on the numeral 4 and would like to have it as soon as possible to work it in.

I would like to know which way the Type III dollar rotated when the reverse die wiggled. You had one picture showing the movement of the ribbon. Would you merely sketch this situation for me.

I am enclosing pictures of two of the Carter reverses and three of the obverses. The obverses are better printed than the ones I had. The reverses are lovely.

Please keep the ball rolling.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

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1 2 2 0 M O U N D A V E N U E • R A C I N E , W I S C O N S I N

November 14, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I like your latest chapter very much. With any luck, I will have my portion completed this week and will get it right into the mail to you. The copies of the government mint report were impressive and I think all records of this nature can be included in the book.

I am enclosing my photos of the 1834 restrike half dollar. By all means, get a photo of the Cox specimen of 1833. Will you also write to Stefanelli and ask him to have pictures made of their specimens of the 1833, 1834 and 1835 restrike half dollars. I think it imperative that we include pictures of all three coins.

I will vote in favor of designating the dollars as Class I, II and III. The word "type" does not seem to fit the situation. I favor "class" because it has been used in previous articles and seems to state more closely what we are talking about.

I am enclosing a sketch of the die rotated dollar from the Garrett-Johns Hopkins collection. If this is not clear enough, I will try to improve on it or send photo.

Lynn was quick to understand why he would not be listed as one of the authors of the book. Walter, however, was very much upset. He feels that he has been cut out without an opportunity to show what he could have done. I will await your comments on this before writing to Walter again.

-2-

Perhaps he could add something to the book if given a chance to review the manuscript. On the other hand, I really don't know if we need his help. He feels that his name on the cover is necessary to make the book more authoritative and salable. I might have agreed with him five years ago, but am not so sure of the value of his name just now. Please help me with a bit of sage advice in this matter. I want to do whatever is fair for Walter and best for the book.

I am enclosing two two bar cent copies that you said you wanted. You may have them if you feel they are worth \$25 each. That is what they are worth to me and I have no other way of evaluating them. I have only seen one other silver specimen; in the Connecticut State Library. I would not care to split my set, as I doubt that anyone else has the pair.

'sever,



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB: jam

encl.

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1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

November 21, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

*Don't need it
my*
I am enclosing the material that I have put together for the book and am hard at work on the chapter concerning previous attempts at pedigree listings and my own complete listing of same.

I have received some excellent photographs of the Smithsonian dollars. These are far superior to yours or anything else that I have ever seen. They will make excellent enlargements for the book and I am sure you will be pleased with them. I am returning your prints of the Smithsonian coins.

I am now absolutely certain that the obverse head punch used on the 1801, 02, 03 and 04 dollars and the eagle punch used on both reverse dies, are original punches that were used on the genuine coins of 1801-03.

I have also noted that the bust on the 1835 restrike half dollar is different from the 1834 bust. Both of them seem to be from original punches, but I am not certain of this yet.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor

KEB:jam
encl.

November 21, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

The facts are that I am virtually writing the entire book. I have done a gigantic amount of reading and analysis. You have been the chief fact gatherer as to the coins themselves and the clearing house for facts, theories, and conclusions. This entitles you to be an author, since you desire to be. I feel that Walter and Lynn have contributed some material, most of Walter's being in previous writings which will be cited throughout. Perhaps the title page could have "By Eric P. Newman and Kenneth Bressett, principally based upon research by Walter Breen, Lynn Glaser and the authors".

Walter's desire to be an author in order to give the book authority and salability is, unfortunately, not sound. It may have just the opposite effect as he has written on the subject in the past and has not endeared himself to some portion of the numismatic public.

I asked John Ford if he would wish to read the manuscript and he enthusiastically desired to. He said I needed coauthors like a hole in the head. He said that Whitman will reach the masses and that we need this more than anything else although he would like to see a more expensive type of publication than the Whitman standard.

All kinds of documents are coming in to me from the National Archives as they are giving me prompt and most efficient service.

I have not seen Kosoff's bulletin. Please send me what he wrote. This must be what Dick Johnson said Kosoff was working on. Kosoff probably was afraid to send me the bulletin.

-2-

Mr. Kenneth Bressett

November 21, 1961

I have the Swiss Shooting Thaler, borrowed from a collector, and I will send it to you if you want to take its picture. I have written to Stefanelli for the pictures of the 1834, 1835 and 1836 half dollars.

I have written a number of additional sections of the book and am going down the home stretch.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman, President
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

*from Ken Brissett
Intergovernmental
Same as other pieces*

SAMUEL WILLIAM WOLFSON
FLORIDA THEATRE BUILDING
JACKSONVILLE 2, FLORIDA

November 28, 1961

Mr. Kenneth E. Brissett
Numismatic Editor
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Evanston, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Brissett:

I have your letter of October 11. I have examined my
1804 Silver Dollar, and to answer your questions:

1. The edge lettering on this coin is not double
struck and the letter E in the word Cents is
completely missing. Several of the other words
have faint letters and do not think any are
missing.
2. As you turn the coin, the tail feather of the
eagle corresponds with the E in the word liberty.

I hope this is the information you desire.

Sincerely,

Sam W. Wolfson

SWW:CC

November 24, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken,

I found Kosoff's comments and needless to say I am amused by his attitude to straddling the fence for business reasons. Perhaps the 1804 he had under control was not sold. What bothers me is his reference to F.C.C. Boyd as if I made the statement that Boyd did not own one. The September 3 COIN WORLD says that Ford made that statement. Actually, it is probably true and I doubt if you will get an answer from Kosoff. He really must be highly concerned or else he would not put his comments in such insulting terms.

I am enclosing a photocopy of the Walter Thompson find which indicates that only the obverse of the 1804 was kept and the reverses were either concealed or destroyed.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WHITMAN
PUBLISHING
COMPANY



Subsidiary of Western Publishing Company, Inc.

1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

November 27, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I was pleased with your latest letters and the photostatic copies of letters that you have pertaining to the 1804 dollar. The letter concerning the Rosenthal specimen has been cited in my pedigree of that coin and was nothing new to me. It is certainly worth pointing to as one of the pack of lies issued by mint officials.

The material that Walter Thompson turned up is necessary for the book but I don't think it is necessary that we obtain exclusive permission to publish this before he or anyone else does. As long as you have his permission to use it, we can give him credit for it and indicate the source where he first published it.

Abe Kosoff is away on business and has not answered my letter yet. I will be interested to see what he has to say. He certainly does seem to be "straddling the fence".

John Ford is a competent numismatist but I am afraid he is not a book publisher. He is of the opinion that it is better to publish 500 books for \$20 each than to print 10,00 or more at \$2 or \$3 each. I can assure you that our book will be of a high quality, well printed and bound, and will be distributed to the largest number of people possible. His reasoning is not sound when he wants to print an expensive book and limit its circulation drastically. I think he is also wrong when he states that any one person could write a book of this nature without help from other sources.

Send -
By all means, photograph the Swiss shooting thaler or send it to me and I will photograph it.

Yes
You did not comment on the two fake bar cents that I recently mailed to you. Did they arrive safely?

*No I don't know
No. 100 contributed
on 10/10/50*
Enclosed is a copy of Sam Wolfson's letter. His coin has the same die alignment as all of the other Class III dollars. I do not remember if you said the Lindermann specimen was like this or not. Please check your records and let me know.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor

KEB:jam

encl.

December 1, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1230 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

Thanks for your last two letters. I have already given Walter Thompson credit in the text for the die material.

The fake bar cents arrived and I have not had a chance to study them as I am working on another project which you know all about.

I know nothing about the die alignment of the Linderman coin - only the double letters.

I presume you know that Nexsen contradicts your findings about the relationship of obverse and reverse but I think that was caused by improper explanations.

I have a suggestion for a new name for the book, namely, "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar". That has impact and gives the thought of fantasy. As a matter of humor, my son suggested "The Rise and Fall of the 1804 Dollar".

As to the previous attempts at pedigree listings, be careful not to overlap my paragraph entitled "The Battle Begins".

I have always been certain that original punches were used in making the 1801, 1802, 1803 and 1804 dollar dies.

I have rewritten your preface and introduction and enclose copies. I believe it is essential to be modest and what you wrote had a little too much self confidence. Feel free to chop up what I wrote.

-2-

Mr. Kenneth Bressett

December 1, 1961

I am enclosing two more sections which are finished sufficiently to have you read.

I think we ought to get this book wound up by the end of December and start setting type. I want to submit the galley proofs to Ray Williamson, if that suits you, and to John Ford, if you have no objection. You may want to submit them to Walter.

We will have to have another meeting and hash out all of the balance of the details.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

December 1, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

We had excellent cooperation as to the Bern Shooting Thaler. A Mr. David G. Marvin, Sleepy Hollow Road, P.O. Box 843, New Canaan, Connecticut, was kind enough to send me the specimen which he acquired from Randolph Zander.

Would you take a picture of it and return it directly to him, with thanks.

It is certainly a pleasure to have that kind of cooperation. I think it would be nice if you could send him a print of the pictures.

The coin is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

CC: Mr. David G. Marvin

December 4, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I have been rewriting material steadily trying to get the bugs out of what I have written before particularly to adapt the comments to your corrections, etc.

In the Coin Collector's Journal for March, 1876, page 63, there is an 1804 dollar talked about along with the 1801, 1802 and 1803 proofs. It is offered for sale at \$600. Could this possibly be the Idler piece or was it some other piece.

The above quotation is also the earliest mention in numismatic literature of the 1801, 1802 and 1803 proof dollars so far as I know. Is there an earlier date as you indicated a possibility of 1875.

I am continuing to revise the Preface and Introduction and have corrected the Stickney reference in the part I sent you.

Please go over all that I have sent you and do not be hesitant about suggestions for improvement or correction.

Walter Thompson's find was published in a very dull manner in the Scrapbook, as you noted, without bringing out any of its real meaning.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

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1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

December 8, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

The article that you referred to in the CCJ for March, 1876, page 63, is my only source of information about the earliest appearance of the 1801, 02 and 03 proofs. This article was written by Ed Fossard and refers to a sale that was held January, 1876. Because of this, I have implied that the proof dollars must have been in existence at least as early as 1875.

The 1804 dollar mentioned in the article is the Adams specimen. You will find this noted in my pedigree of this piece.

I will re-read all of the material that you have written to date. I have found no serious objections to it in my first reading and feel confident that you will correct any sentences that were not easy to understand and iron out any other minor difficulties.

'sever,

Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

December 11, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I could scream with joy as I have virtually finished the book. From now on, refinements and rehashes. I do not believe I have written anything from which I have gotten such enjoyment. It has been a struggle to be fair and to be logical and clear on a real messy subject. I have four separate proofs that the dies were not made in 1804 and that is really piling up the evidence.

The most important item in your last letter is that you said that the Class II dollar, in Smithsonian, has wire rims. Have you seen it? Does it have wire rims on the obverse as well as the reverse? If so this is of critical importance to me. If you don't know positively I will write Val.

I received a whole mob of records from Washington so that we can illustrate them.

Please don't think me critical or picayunish but I have revised and reworked the enclosures in your December 5 letter and would like for you to retype them after you agree or further modify them. My corrections are concentrated upon more concise expression, not going over material which has already been put in other sections, leaving out extraneous material, etc. I obtained the date of death of Lamot DuPont. I corrected the relationship of the Brands. I straightened out complete confusion in the Rosenthal quote. I corrected the date of Watters activity, etc.

-2-

December 11, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett

Please note that I have laveled the first reverse as Reverse X and the second reverse as Reverse Y. I have done this to avoid conflict with Bolender and to make these reverses specific.

I would like to have these sheets back with the corrections on them when you finish with them.

"The Fantastic 1804 Dollar " is the name I like most, as it has punch which is stronger than using the word "history" in the title.

I have made the corrections you suggested and one thousand more.

I want to know exactly how you determine that the 1842 book uses the Stickney piece and not the U.S. Mint piece. Please advise.

Get ready to come to St. Louis right after the first of the year for complete and final details.

Kosoff's letter is a honey! Poor Abe. From what he wrote you on November 29 I can only say that he and Sol Kaplan must be stuck with a coin and would like to sell it to Ostheimer. Perhaps Ostheimer will buy it with a right of return if it is not genuine because it fits into the others he already has or did have.

Best regards for the holidays.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb



A. KOSOFF, Inc. *San Francisco*

* R.O. BOX 816 * BUREAU, CALIFORNIA

* STATE * BOX * CABLE * KOSOFFCAL * SAN FRANCISCO

December 14, 1941

Mr. EUGENE SPENCER
1210 Second Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of December 7th.

As I indicated to you, I have not yet got the exact information as to the source from which Spence got the 1824 Dollar. As Mr. & Mrs. Smith being or other, forget it -- Father Smith was a well-known collector of books of or they collected the family collection and the book in Portland, Oregon. He bought the book from me, I believe, in 1941 or 1942 -- or later in that period. I believe, with your previous opinion in this matter, you undoubtedly do not have the present question of that book as if you have made an inquiry, it is probably correct.

I do not mean to be critical but I think that a book of the collection which appears to be an authentic, it seems to be a bit off in its history to go to work. Thus, the present one also seems to be an investigation but my feeling is that this is the one the collector is interested in and the publisher make a book of it. It would seem to me that in an effort to give as much information as possible, one draws a conclusion which may or may not be so. My personal opinion is that if there was any book of the collection, it would be a book which would be in the collection. I do not refer to the book of the 1824 Dollar as the collector but as a general thing it is in the collection.

In recent issues of Coda World and Standard there have been a number of articles which are erroneous in historical data. They further seemed to indicate that certain items are unique and they list 3 or 4 pieces are known when it is obvious that the report is an historical in nature and has made no effort to determine the facts, that the whole thing is a bit on the ridiculous side -- at least to those who have been around for a while.



Continental Publishing Co., International Dept., 1000 Broadway, New York, N.Y.
American Historical Co., American Historical Society, Inc.

Page Two

I am sorry I cannot give you any more on the Rydeman piece at the moment and if this thing does open up, I'll certainly let you know.

As for the Barrows, I will be working on those rather continuously for quite a while because I am involved in a project which has to do with this series. I can tell you that this will be a revolutionary price list. Unfortunately, some of our dealer friends only like to criticize after the books are printed but are of no assistance at all in co-operating in preparation. I have received three replies to my recent inquiry and one tells me that he knows that I have all of the records and that I could do a good job. The other tells me he is too busy and the third indicates that I can use his recent price list but that he will try and get some more information to see if he has it — so, it's the same old story. However, you can be sure that we will give you as complete and thorough a job as we can.

Cordial regards and Greetings of the Season.

Sincerely,

Abe
A. Kroll
AKK

December 13, 1961

Dear Ken,

The weight of the Byron
Reed Omaha City Library 1804
dollar is 412 grains.

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

WHITMAN
PUBLISHING
COMPANY



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1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

December 18, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I, too, am elated to find that you have finished with the 1804 manuscript. Polishing it up should be no real chore, and I agree with you that we should get together soon after the first of the year and complete the project once and for all. Sometime around the weekend of January 12-14 would be all right with me. I cannot get away earlier than that.

My statement about the Smithsonian Class II dollar having a wire rim came from notes that I made while examining the piece. I do not now remember if the wire rim appears on both sides of the coin, but I believe that it does, judging from the photograph. You could ask Stefanelli about this if it is important to you.

I was not all all perturbed with your revisions to my work, and will have this retyped and sent back to you within the next few days. In the meantime, I am reading your pages to see what can be changed in there.

I am absolutely certain that the 1804 dollar illustrated in Eckfeldt and DuBois' book is the Stickney coin. The Saxton ruling machine carefully copied the surface of a coin. All details including minor nicks, scratches and die breaks are discernible in the Saxton engravings. The mint specimen has several noticeable nicks and dents which do not appear on the plate. I carefully checked photographs of every known specimen for flaws and discovered that the Stickney specimen has two minor nicks on the reverse side. These nicks show very clearly on the Saxton plate. There can be no question but

what the Stickney coin was used. This observation is not terribly important but would have been a real find if it turned out that one of the other specimens had been used.

Why did you want to remove my statement that the reeded edge of the Shooting Thaler had been taken off before the 1804 dollar was struck? This seems important to me.

Do you have positive information that Watters was actively collecting between 1879 and 1905? I was certain about the dates that I indicated, but he could have been active long before or long afterwards. I have rewritten that sentence to read that he was an active collector for many years.

Are you certain that the 1885 edition of Evans' book gives Chapman's story about the dollars? I believe this first appeared in 1886 and do not see how they could have included this, since Chapman's catalog did not appear until late in 1885.

I have changed the word photo back to photograph since the dictionary does not list any such word as photo and I believe photograph is what we are trying to say.

I feel it is significant that the mint cabinet was organized in 1838 and that the first appropriations for coin purchases was March 3, 1839. Have you mentioned this in your article anywhere? I am convinced that these coins were made primarily for use as trading material to improve the mint collection. Perhaps this cannot be proved, but at least it is worthy of some mention.

'sever,



Ken Bressett

KEB: jam

December 20, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

I sent Ray Williamson a copy of the complete text of the book with the exception of the pedigree section. He will make suggestions.

Stefanelli has sent me pictures of the restrike half dollars.

The Omaha pictures have been taken and will be sent to me shortly.

Please complete a rewrite of the pedigree section if you have not already done so.

The book is now complete and I am enclosing a full duplicate of each page. Please go over it and make as many suggestions as you can to improve it. I hope that you can read it over during the New Year Holidays so that we can meet to work out final details as soon thereafter as you can come here.

I wrote Walter for a citation and am interested to see how soon I get a response.

My very kindest wishes for the Holidays which, no doubt, I am spoiling by making you work.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

C O P Y

December 21, 1961

Mr. Ken Bressett
Whitman Publishing Co.
Racine, Wis.

Dear Ken:

I have spoken to Mr. F. Newell Childs in regards to the 1804 Dollar that we sold his father.

He tells me it is now his sons and he feels that he would rather this was not publicized. I told him I would tell you his wishes in this matter. He feels he would be annoyed with collectors getting in touch with him and as he does not desire to sell the coin he would rather the Childs name was not mentioned.'

I wish you luck with your book and best wishes for the New Year.

Thanks for the information just received about the Fan Naxes. I sold them that night to Phil Moore for \$3.00.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

R. Green

RG/gf.

December 28, 1951

Rev. H. Green
P. O. Box 283
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Sirs:

Many thanks for your letter and for the information that you were able to give us about the Collins' time collar.

I am sorry that we will not be able to give an up-to-date listing as to the present status of this collar. I believe it is common knowledge that G. P. Collins gave away the plate and, therefore, I hope it will be all right to say that it is still in the Collins family.

Do you think it would be possible to have this collar weighed so that we could include this information in the book. We have the weights of every other known specimen with the exception of this plate. Edw. Sargent has asked if he or someone could get a look at the collar to determine if it has a high wire edge or a normal beveled edge. Your assistance in any of our above requests would be greatly appreciated.

Kindest personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

WITTEN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Earl Brownlee
Sondheimer Editor

KIM:jam

December 29, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Company
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

As matters now stand you can come down here on the 13th. By that time I will have received Ray Williamson's suggestions and will have refined the text further on my own.

I would like for you to bring a type sheet so that we can select the various types to be used. Particular consideration should be given to the longer quotes and to the type of footnotes to be put in.

I would like you to bring all of the photographs so that we can go over illustrations to be used.

The matter of the reeding on the Mint Class II specimen will be discussed with you at that time as this coin might have been put through a milling machine to roll the reeding off rather than have it shaved down.

Do you have an Evans 1885 edition? My 1886 edition says that it is revised and therefore I assume that the 1885 edition exists.

I am very pleased with your comments in your December 18 letter and will discuss those with you when you are here.

If I have to make a change in our meeting date I will let you know as promptly as I can but as matters now stand it is okay.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WHITMAN
PUBLISHING
COMPANY

Whitman

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

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1220 MOUND AVENUE • RACINE, WISCONSIN

*James W. Wells
407 Crestwood Dr
Collinsville
Dickens 42696*

December 29, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I now have your completed typescript of the book. I have given it a preliminary reading and will spend some time with it this weekend going over it in detail. It seems excellent to me and I am sure it will be a very worth-while book.

*Home
one day
Saturday*

We definitely should get together to iron out all final details concerning photographs, style of printing, etc. I will have all of the necessary material with me when I visit you next month. The weekend of January 12-14 will be the best time for me to visit you. Please let me know if it would be more convenient for me to make arrangements to stay at the hotel or if you will have room for me at your house again this time. Do you think we can finish all of our work in one day? If so, let me know whether Saturday or Sunday would be the best day for you. Undoubtedly, I will have to use the same plane schedule that I did before, arriving late in the afternoon and leaving early in the morning.

*Call him
You can*

Do you know a Mr. Jim Wells of the Alcoa Company in East St. Louis. He is very much interested in English coins, and we have been working together on a catalog of this series. While in St. Louis this time I would like to spend a few hours with him. He has suggested that we have dinner together Saturday evening, January 13 at the Missouri Athletic Club. I think it would be nice if all three of us could get together for this meeting. He seems like a very pleasant fellow and I am sure we would all enjoy it.

The photographs of the Byron Reed Dollar have arrived. They are not exceptionally good but certainly better than nothing.

By now I assume you have my rewritten version of the pedigree section. I have incorporated your suggested changes in the copy that I have here. You should also have my letter by now explaining about the Stickney specimen being used in the 1842 Eckfeldt-DuBois book.

Nothing

I will be anxious to find out when and what you heard from Walter. He has not written to me for the past month.

I will see what we can do about examining the Watters specimen. Enclosed is a copy of my letter from Mrs. Green. She is the closest contact to the Watters specimen and will be able to make the arrangements for us if anyone can. I am not 100 per cent certain about the weight given for the Watters coin. This information came from a scrap of paper tucked in with Green's records. Incidentally, along with this material was the enclosed letter from Comparette. This is similar to the other statements that you have cited from mint officials; perhaps you will also want to include this one.

Take some

I do not have any exceptional pictures of the 1801-3 restrike dollars. Perhaps we should try to get new photos of these if you do not feel the ones from the Lyman sale are good enough. I will have a specimen of the 1802 proof to bring with me when I visit you.

The information about the weight of the Johns Hopkins coin came from Mrs. Sarah Freeman, who, as you know, is a very exacting worker. She gave the weight as 26.105 grams which I translated to be 402.8+ grains.

Discuss

I do not know of any Class III dollars with a wire rim. It seems only logical that the Swiss Shooting Thaler had its edge smoothed down since these coins all have a reeded edge and should normally weigh approximately 385+ grains.

Discuss

When I examined the Mint's specimens, I noted that there are signs of rust spots on the obverse of both the "original" and the "restrike" dollars. This appears between the second and third star from Y. This may have been some defect other than rust on the dies, but at least it looked that way to me and will make an important difference in your Chapter 5, "Rust Spots."

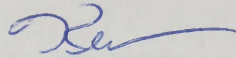
I have

Do you have the original schematic drawing of the edge lettering device or will I have to make an ink drawing of the copy that you sent to me? It is not suitable for reproduction in its present form.

-3-

No
Do you know Hydeman well enough to ask him if his dollar was actually sold or if he still owns it? This information would be important to the book.

'sever,



Ken Bressett
Numismatic Editor
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

encl.